



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913  
PH (517) 373.5932 | FAX (517) 373.5944  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/brown/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/brown/)

For Immediate Release  
October 6, 2004

Contact: Matt Sweeney  
(517) 373-5932

## **Sen. Brown's legislation to curb identity theft passes House of Representatives**

**LANSING** – Legislation attempting to cut down on the use of Social Security numbers in commercial and retail transactions passed the House of Representatives, announced Sen. Cameron S. Brown, R-Fawn River Township.

“Consumers should not be required to give out their Social Security numbers,” said Brown, sponsor of the bill. “Social Security numbers are our private identification numbers and should only be used when necessary.”

Currently the Consumer Protection Act prohibits various types of activities considered to be unfair and harmful to consumers. Social Security numbers originally were intended only for retirement purposes. Recently, social security numbers have become commonly used for other purposes, making it easier for identity thieves to commit their crimes.

Senate Bill 657 would not allow a commercial or retail transaction to require a consumer to use a Social Security number unless it is authorized by law or for an extension of credit.

“This bill was designed to add another layer of protection for our residents against becoming victims of identity theft,” Brown said.

SB 657, part of the Identity Theft package, also amends the Consumer Protection Act to prohibit denial or reduction of credit to an individual solely because they have been a victim of identity theft.

Senate Bill 657 now heads to the governor for approval.

###